

AMALGAM™



BULLETS AND

BRACELETS

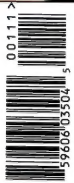


EXTRA
CONTENT
ON
CD

#1
APRIL

CASTLE
AND
DIANA
TOGETHER
AGAIN!

DIRECT EDITION



\$1.95 US/\$2.75 CAN

S HE IS THE PRINCESS DIANA, A ROGUE AMAZON FROM PARADISE ISLAND, WHO LEFT YEARS AGO TO INVESTIGATE MAN'S WORLD. HE IS TREVOR CASTLE, A FORMER SPECIAL FORCES OPERATIVE WHO, WHEN HE SAW HIS FAMILY KILLED, WAGED WAR AGAINST THE MAFIA AS THE PUNISHER. NOW -- BECAUSE YOU DEMANDED IT -- THEY ARE RE-UNITED IN A CLASH OF...

BULLETS AND BRACELETS

STAN SCHWARTZ
PRESENTS
DIANA PRINCE AND
THE PUNISHER
IN

FINAL THRUST

THE EVENT? DIANA PRINCE AND TREVOR CASTLE ARE TOGETHER AGAIN AND KICKING BUTT! WHAT'S THE OCCASION? HANG TIGHT, EFFENDI! -- WE'LL BRING YOU UP TO DATE AS WE GO!

GET DOWN, PRINCESS! THESE HAND GOONS MEAN BUSINESS!

SO DO IT! AND, CASTLE! THE DAY I CAN'T HANDLE MOOKS LIKE THEM -- OR LIKE YOU -- IS THE DAY I TRADE THESE ADAMANTIUM BRACELETS FOR COOKING PANS!

BRRAAP

BRRAAP

JULIAN JOHN
OSTRANDER
WRITER

GARY "ALL
MEAT" FRANK
PENCILER

KILLER
CAM SMITH
INKER

ALL HANDS
"STARK-BAVING"
AND "STARKING"

AND THE
CANCY CAYS JACKARABY
BY COMICRAFT JOHN KALISE
REYKING C. DOLING

COPIED
CHRIS COOPER
C. DOLING

BALISTIC
BOBBIE CHASE
C. DOLING

BLUETOOTH
BOB HARRIS
C. DOLING

BULLETS AND BRACELETS™, Vol. 1, No. 1, April, 1996. Published by MARVEL COMICS, Gerard Calabrese, President, Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Copyright © 1996 Marvel Characters, Inc. and DC Comics. All Amalgam characters, the distinctive likenesses thereof, names and related elements are jointly held trademarks of DC Comics and Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.95 per copy in the U.S. and \$2.75 in Canada. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. Printed in Canada.

"RIGHT NOW - WE
GOT ACTION!"

HOWLING LIKE A MADMAN, TREVOR
CASTLE LAUNCHES HIMSELF TOWARD
HIS FOES. THIS QUEST HAS BEEN A
LONG AND TORTURED PATH, LEADING TO
THE STRONGHOLD OF THE HAND...

*As seen in the now legendary
PUNISHER #90-99.
© 1999 DC Comics

WHILE DIANA, FORMER AMAZON PRINCESS,
RETRIEVES HER COLLAPSIBLE RECURVING
BOW FROM ITS HIDDEN RESTING PLACE
ON HER QUIVER. WITH A DEFT SNAP THE
BOW IS ONCE AGAIN READY FOR SERVICE!

HER PATH TO THIS POINT
HAS BEEN EQUALLY LONG
AND ARDOROUS, FILLED WITH
FRUSTRATION AND HOPE...

*As depicted in the equally stunning
DIANA PRINCE, FREELANCE #90-99
© 1999 DC Comics

...AND NOW HIS PENT-UP
ANGER AND FRUSTRATION
FIND MULTIPLE TARGETS...

BRAAAP

...AND
EXPLODES!

...LEAVING HER NO
LESS DETERMINED...

...NOR HER
AIM LESS
TRUE.

UNTIL, FINALLY, THOSE HAND
MEMBERS SURVIVING RETREAT,
LEAVING BEHIND ONLY THE DEAD...

GREAT! THE
PLAN WAS TO
LEAVE SOME OF
THEM ALIVE FOR
QUESTIONING,
TREVOR.
REMEMBER?

NAG,
NAG,
NAG.



I THOUGHT YOU HAD
TAKEN TO USING
DUMMY BULLETS.

I DID. BUT THE
DUMMIES KEPT
GETTING UP.



LOOK,
LET'S TABLE
THE TALK. WE
NEED TO FIND
THE KID.

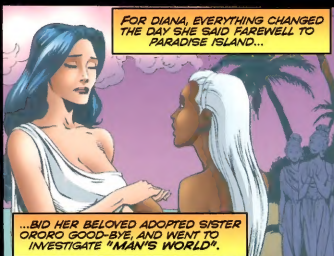
TALK'S
NOT GOING TO DO
US A BIT OF GOOD
ANYWAY. THERE'S TOO
MUCH HISTORY
BETWEEN US...
"PRINCESS".



AND, AS THEY
SEARCH, THEIR
MINDS ARE
DRAWN BACK
OVER THAT
"HISTORY!"



FOR DIANA, SHE CAME OF AGE ON A MYSTIC ISLAND THAT COULD TRULY BE CALLED PARADISE.



FOR DIANA, EVERYTHING CHANGED THE DAY SHE SAID FAREWELL TO PARADISE ISLAND...

...BID HER BELOVED ADOPTED SISTER ORORO GOOD-BYE, AND WENT TO INVESTIGATE "MAN'S WORLD".



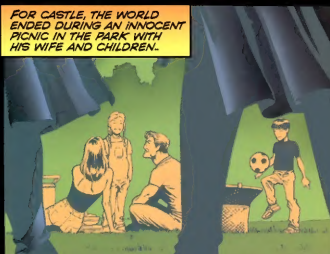
DIANA'S SERVICE TO THE WAKANDAN KING HELPED FORGE HER BRACELETS OF ADAMANTIUM.



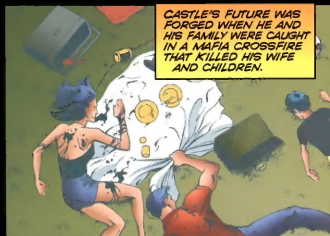
DIANA HAS SINCE MADE HER MARK IN MAN'S WORLD AS DIANA PRINCE, FREELANCE.



WHILE CASTLE'S COMING OF AGE HAPPENED IN A JUNGLE HELL KNOWN AS VIETNAM.



FOR CASTLE, THE WORLD ENDED DURING AN INNOCENT PICNIC IN THE PARK WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.



CASTLE'S FUTURE WAS FORGED WHEN HE AND HIS FAMILY WERE CAUGHT IN A MAFIA CROSSFIRE THAT KILLED HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.



WHILE CASTLE'S ONE-MAN VENDETTA AGAINST THE MOB MADE HIM INFAMOUS AS THE PUNISHER.

SHE WONDER'S HOW THEY COULD EVER HAVE THOUGHT IT WOULD TURN OUT ANY OTHER WAY...



AND HE WONDERS HOW TWO SUCH DIS-SIMILIAR PEOPLE COULDE EVER BEEN BROUGHT TOGETHER. AND THE MEMORIES RUSH IN.

THE DAY SHE FOUND HIM...



...DYING OF HIS WOUNDS...

...AND SAVED HIM...

... BECAME HIS ANGEL.

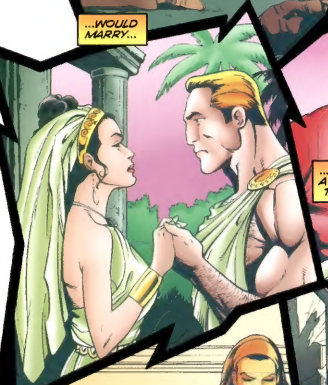
IT NOW SEEMS INEVITABLE THAT THEY WOULD FALL IN LOVE...



...WOULD HAVE A CHILD OF THEIR OWN...



...LITTLE RYAN CASTAGNONE.



...WOULD MARRY...



INEVITABLE, TOO, THAT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM WOULD DRIVE THEM APART.

PERHAPS INEVITABLE AS WELL SOME UNSEEN ENEMY WOULD STRIKE AT THEM BY KIDNAPPING THE CHILD.



SHE WONDERS HOW THEY COULD EVER HAVE THOUGHT IT WOULD TURN OUT ANY OTHER WAY...



YOU
KNOW
IT'S A
TRAP.



SOP WE
GO IN, TRIGGER
IT, WALK OUT THE
OTHER SIDE. HOW
ELSE DO WE FIND
THE SPROUT?

YOU KNOW,
IF RYAN HAD
BEEN WITH *ME*,
THIS WOULD
NEVER'VE
HAPPENED.



TAKEN HIM
WITH YOU ON
YOUR KILLING
SPREES?



Oh, THAT
WOUL'DVE
BEEN A FINE
WAY TO RAISE
OUR BOY.

BETTER'N
NO CARE. YOU
INSISTED ON *SOLE*
CUSTODY, BUT THEN
YOU WOULDN'T STAY
HOME TO TAKE
CARE OF
HIM.



I'M NOT A WOMAN TO
STAY HOME AND KEEP
HOUSE ALL DAY. NEVER
WAS; NEVER
WILL BE.



WE TRIED
—
THAT
REMEMBER?

IT'S
NOT WHY I
WALKED ON
PARADISE.



LOOKS LIKE
A DEAD END.

JUST LIKE OUR
RELATIONSHIP...
"PRINCESS."

IF I HAD **BEEEN** THERE WHEN THEY TOOK RYAN MAYBE I WOULD'VE BEEN KILLED AS WELL! OR IS THAT WHAT YOU WOULD **PREFER**, TREVOR?!

NO, I WISH I HAD BEEN THERE -- AND THAT I HAD DIED SAVING OUR SON.

THAT'S **ALWAYS** BEEN YOUR PROBLEM, TREVOR -- TOO READY TO DIE, NOT READY ENOUGH TO LIVE.

I THOUGHT YOUR **FIRST** FAMILY WOULD'VE TAUGHT YOU -- YOU CAN'T BRING BACK THE DEAD!

A **FITTING** EPITAPH.

SLAM

MONARCH!

SO THE RUMORS WERE **RIGHT!** YOU ARE THE ONE BEHIND ALL THIS!

GIMME BACK MY KID!

GAAH!

YOU CANNOT TACKLE A HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE, TREVOR CASTLE. AND IT WOULD BE **FOOLISH** FOR ME TO APPEAR IN PERSON, DON'T YOU THINK?





GREAT
GAEA! YOU KNOW
WHERE WE'RE
HEADED!



APOKOLIPS!

WE
HAVEN'T BEEN
HERE, PRINCESS,
SINCE THE SECRET
CRISIS. LOOKS LIKE
WE'VE LANDED IN
ARMAGHETTO.



Oh,
TREVOR...
DOES THIS MEAN
RYAN HAS BEEN
BROUGHT
HEREP!

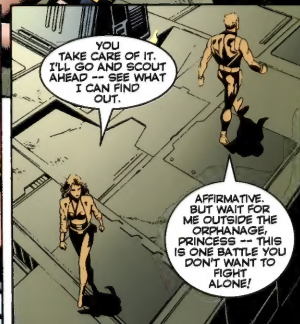
THEY BOTH GROW SILENT.
THE MEMORIES OF THIS
PLACE ARE AS DARK AND
HEAVY AS THE MASTER OF
THIS PLANET, AN INTER-
DIMENSIONAL JUMP FROM
EARTH.

SO MANY GOOD PEOPLE
GATHERED HERE TO FIGHT
THE GREAT BATTLE AGAINST
WHAT SEEMED TO BE
CONSUMMATE EVIL. FRIENDS
AS WELL AS FOES DIED HERE.
THE HEROES WON -- BUT
THE COST WILL EVER BE
HEAVY ON THEIR HEARTS.



THEY'VE PROBABLY GOT RYAN
IN THAT TERRIBLE ORPHANAGE.
RUN BY THAT DESPICABLE
OLD HARRIDAN, GRANNY
HARKNESS. TREVOR,
WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM
THERE!

AGREED.
BUT WE'RE
GOING TO NEED
MORE FIREPOWER --
AND I THINK I KNOW
WHERE TO GET
IT.



YOU
TAKE CARE OF IT.
I'LL GO AND SCOUT
AHEAD -- SEE WHAT
I CAN FIND OUT.

AFFIRMATIVE.
BUT WAIT FOR
ME OUTSIDE THE
ORPHANAGE,
PRINCESS -- THIS
IS ONE BATTLE YOU
DON'T WANT TO
FIGHT ALONE!



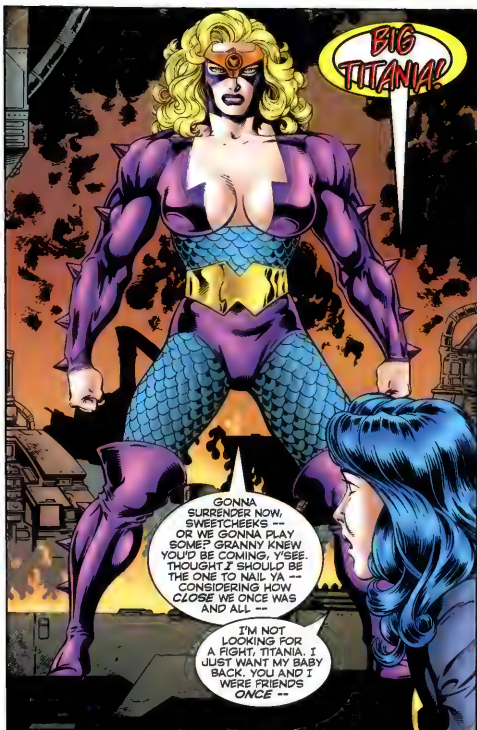
GRANNY HARKNESS ORPHANAGE, WHERE THE RULING ELITE OF APOKOLIPS ARE POUNDED INTO SHAPE...

TREVOR, I KNOW I TOLD YOU TO WAIT BUT YOU'D BETTER HURRY.

I KNOW THE CALLOUS BRUTALITY TO CHILDREN THAT GOES ON IN THERE AND IT SICKENS ME TO THINK WHAT THEY MIGHT BE DOING TO MY... TO OUR BABY!



WELL, WELL, WELL -- SLUMMING AGAIN, PRINCESS?



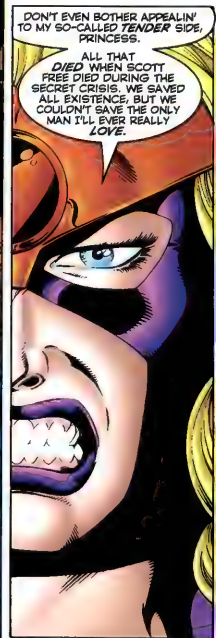
BIG TITANIA!

GONNA SURRENDER NOW, SWEETCHEEKS -- OR WE GONNA PLAY SOME? GRANNY KNEW YOU'D BE COMING, Y'SEE. THOUGHT I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO NAIL YA -- CONSIDERING HOW CLOSE WE ONCE WAS AND ALL --

I'M NOT LOOKING FOR A FIGHT, TITANIA. I JUST WANT MY BABY BACK. YOU AND I WERE FRIENDS ONCE --

DON'T EVEN BOTHER APPEALIN' TO MY SO-CALLED TENDER SIDE, PRINCESS.

ALL THAT DIED WHEN SCOTT FREE DIED DURING THE SECRET CRISIS. WE SAVED ALL EXISTENCE, BUT WE COULDN'T SAVE THE ONLY MAN I'LL EVER REALLY LOVE.







WHERE IS RYAN? DO YOU HAVE HIM TRAPPED IN THAT HELL THAT GRANNY GOODNESS CALLS AN ORPHANAGER?

TELL ME, OR, BY GAEA, I'LL...!

HEEE-
HEEE-HEEE!
LOOK, GIRLS --
OUR VAUNTED
COMMANDER
IS ON HER
KNEES!

BE OF
GOOD CHEER,
TITANIA! THE *FEMALE
FURIES* WILL ONCE AGAIN
SAVE YOUR LARGE BUTT!
BERNADETH, STOMPA,
LASHINA AND YOURS
TRULY, MAD HARRIET,
WAITING FOR...
ORDERS!



TAKE THIS CARRION TO GRANNY AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!

ALTHOUGH,
TRUTH TO SAY,
MY HEART WAS
NOT IN THE
BATTLE!

ELSEWHERE...

THERE'S THE TOMB. PRETTY MUCH FIGURED THEY WOULDN'T JUST SHOVE HIM INTO THE FIRE PITS... NO MATTER *WHAT* FELL OUT BETWEEN HIM AND HIS FATHER.

Hmm. JUST TWO PARADEMONS. NONE TOO ALERT AT THAT. MAKES SENSE. WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MINDS WOULD ATTACK *THIS* PLACE? PARADEMONS ARE TOUGH BUT STUPID. LET ME JUST CIRCLE AROUND BEHIND ONE...



SURPRISE INSPECTION. WHOOPS. YOU GOT A SHIV IN YER THROAT.

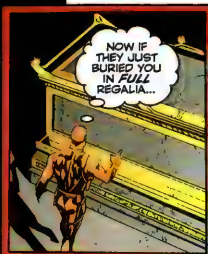
MIND IF I BORROW YOUR GUN? I'LL GIVE IT RIGHT BACK.

SCHRAAK



HATE
TO BE DOING
THIS TO YOU, OLD
FRIEND. IF ANYONE
DESERVES TRUE, FINAL
PEACE, IT'S YOU. YOU WERE
THE **GREATEST WARRIOR**
I EVER MET. THE MOMENT WE
LOCKED EYES, WE KNEW --
TWO OF A KIND. AND YOU
WENT OUT **GLORIOUSLY**.
I ENVY YOU YOUR
DEATH.

I KNOW
YOU WON'T MIND
MY BORROWING
SOMETHING FROM
YOU. YOU PRIZED
FRIENDSHIP, HAVING
SO FEW. AND YOU
BELIEVED IN
FIGHTING THE
FIGHT!



NOW IF
THEY JUST
BURIED YOU
IN **FULL**
REGALIA...



BINGO.



THE
HUMAN'S
AWAKE,
KANTO.

'TIS
A PITY,
GRANNY.
FOR SHE **IS**
FAIR...

ENOUGH.
WOMAN, DO
YOU KNOW WHY
YOU STILL
LIVE?

TO AWAIT YOUR REVENGE,
I SUPPOSE, ALTHOUGH I
HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT
REVENGE A LITTLE **PETTY**
FOR YOU...





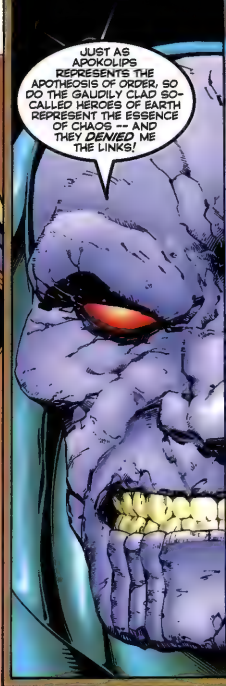
THANOS SAID!

IF THIS WAS ONLY ABOUT REVENGE, IT WOULD BE. BUT THIS IS ALSO ABOUT **CHAOS...** AND ORDER.

WHEN MY MOTHER HAD MY FIRST AND MOST BELOVED WIFE KILLED, I SAW FULLY THE **CHAOS** THAT THE UNIVERSE IS. AND WHAT A HORROR THAT **CHAOS** WAS.

ORDER DOES NOT EXIST NATURALLY. IT MUST BE **IMPOSED**. AND MINE IS THE ONLY MIND, THE ONLY WILL, **CAPABLE** OF IMPOSING THAT ORDER ON EXISTENCE.

AND --- TO THAT END -- I SOUGHT THE **INFINITY LINKS!**



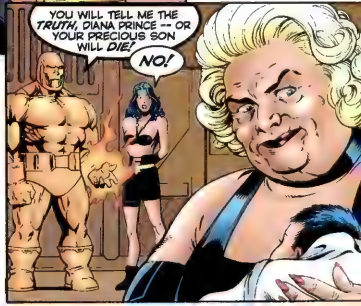
JUST AS **APOKOLIPS** REPRESENTS THE **APOTHEOSIS** OF ORDER, SO DO THE GAUDILY CLAD SO-CALLED HEROES OF EARTH REPRESENT THE **ESSENCE** OF **CHAOS** -- AND THEY **DENIED** ME THE **LINKS!**



BUT THE **LINKS** WERE TOO VALUABLE A **WEAPON** TO DESTROY! YOU **MUST** KNOW WHERE THEY ARE!

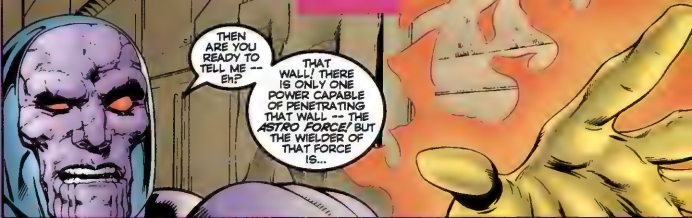
THEY WERE TOO **DANGEROUS** A **WEAPON!** THEY WERE DESTROYED..!

LIES!



YOU WILL TELL ME THE **TRUTH**, **DIANA PRINCE** -- OR YOUR **PRECIOUS SON** WILL **DIE!**

NO!

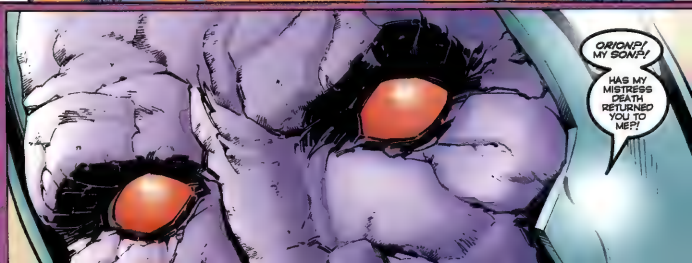


THEN
ARE YOU
READY TO
TELL ME --
EH?

THAT
WALL! THERE
IS ONLY ONE
POWER CAPABLE
OF PENETRATING
THAT WALL -- THE
ASTRO FORCE! BUT
THE WIELDER OF
THAT FORCE
IS...



THANOSEID!
TURN AND
FACE ME!



ORION!
MY SON!

HAS MY
MISTRESS
DEATH
RETURNED
YOU TO
ME?



HEADS UP, PRINCESS! CAUGHT OL' CRAGGY PUSS FLAT-FOOTED, BUT WE KNOW IT CAN'T LAST. AND THE ASTRO-GLIDER'S JUST ABOUT OUT OF JUICE!

SCHRAAK

Ahhh! TREVOR CASTLE, I COULD MARRY YOU ALL OVER AGAIN!



LATER, BABE. I GOT SOMEONE ELSE ON MY DANCE CARD RIGHT NOW.

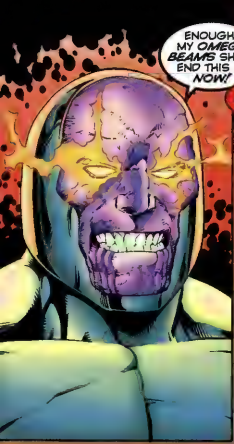


AND YOU AND I, LADY, HAVE OUR OWN GAVOTTE!



YOU'RE SITTING THIS ONE OUT, BERNADETH! YOU SEE, I FINALLY REMEMBERED WHO MY **REAL** FRIENDS ARE -- AND YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THEM!





ENOUGH!
MY OMEGA
BEAMS SHALL
END THIS ---
NOW!

RYAN!



SO SMUG! ALL YOU
UNDERSTAND IS AN EYE
FOR AN EYE, A TOOTH FOR A
TOOTH! WELL, I STILL HAVE
ENOUGH ASTRO FORCE
LEFT TO MAKE THIS A
LIFE FOR A
LIFE!



TREVOR!
STOP!

VERY
CLEVER,
THANOS! YOUR SCHEME
ALMOST
WORKED.





THANOSEID'S
OMEGA BEAMS DON'T
JUST DESTROY --
THEY CAN BEND TIME
AND SPACE!

AND THAT'S
WHAT THEY DID
WITH OUR SON,
TREVOR --

-- SENDING
HIM BACK
IN TIME SO HE
COULD BE RAISED
ON APOKOLIPS AS
THANOSEID'S PERSONAL
ASSASSIN, KNOWING
ONLY ONE NAME
-- *KANTO!*

YOU AND
HE ARE SO MUCH
ALIKE, AND THAT WOULD'VE
BEEN THANOSEID'S ULTIMATE
REVENGE! EVEN AS HIS OWN
SON ORION WAS KILLED, SO
YOU WOULD'VE KILLED
OR BEEN KILLED
BY *OUR* BOY!

BUT I AM
HIS *MOTHER* --
I LOOKED IN HIS
EYES AND KNEW HIM.
DEEP WITHIN, HE KNEW
ME, TOO. DENY ALL
THIS IF YOU CAN,
THANOSEID.

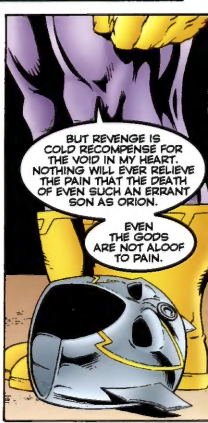
I DENY
NOTHING. I CONFIRM
NOTHING. I AM
THANOSEID.

AND THESE
GAMES ARE
OVER.



BUT REVENGE IS
COLD RECOMPENSE FOR
THE VOID IN MY HEART.
NOTHING WILL EVER RELIEVE
THE PAIN THAT THE DEATH
OF EVEN SUCH AN ERRANT
SON AS ORION.

EVEN
THE GODS
ARE NOT ALOOF
TO PAIN.



1 CROSS THE BIFROST BRIDGE, ONE OF THE ARCING BEAMS TOUCHES DOWN...

...AND TWIN FORMS EMERGE.

TITANIA?
DO WE STILL LIVE?
I HAD THOUGHT WE
WERE DEAD, MOST
CERTAINLY!

FOR ALL
HIS VILLAINY,
THANOSOID IS STILL
A BEING OF HONOR,
AND IN THAT LIES THE
HOPE OF HIS REDEMPTION.
HAVING NO FURTHER
USE FOR YOU TWO,
HE SENT YOU
WHERE YOU
BELONGED.



THE UNI-
FRIEND WROTE
IN FLAMING WORDS
OF YOUR ARRIVAL.
WELCOME TO NEW
ASGARD. I AM ALL
HIGHFATHER
ODIN.

I THANK YOU, MY LORD,
AND I GLADLY PLEDGE MY
SWORD TO YOU, BUT -- CAN
YOU TELL ME -- WHAT BECAME
OF MY PARENTS? WHAT DID
THANOSOID DO
TO THEM?



"BE OF PEACE,
MY SON. THEY,
TOO, ARE GONE
TO WHERE *THEY*
BELONG."

ZAMMO

SO --
HERE OUR
STRANGE QUEST
ENDS, TREVOR --
IN THE SAME
ALLEY WHERE
WE FIRST
MET!

YEAH.
HARD TO
FIGURE,
PRINCESS --
DID WE WIN
OR DID WE
LOSE?



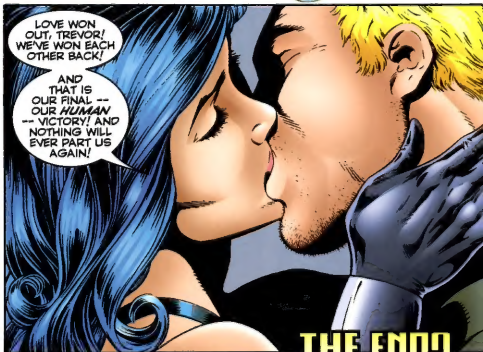
Y' KNOW,
IF IT HADN'T
BEEN FOR YOU,
I MIGHT'VE KILLED
RYAN. GAME, SET,
AND MATCH TO
THANOSID.



BUT
YOU DIDN'T.
YOU'RE A BETTER
MAN THAN YOU
GIVE YOURSELF
CREDIT FOR,
TREVOR
CASTLE.

LOVE WON
OUT, TREVOR!
WE'VE WON EACH
OTHER BACK!

AND
THAT IS
OUR FINAL --
OUR *HUMAN*
-- VICTORY! AND
NOTHING WILL
EVER PART US
AGAIN!



THE END?

MINUTEMEN

SYL3NT Bob

